

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11 AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Prepared especially for State Extension Directors
By the OPA
Issued by Extension Service, USDA

- - - -

A Nation-wide drive against upgrading of beef and veal and other violations of OPA price ceilings featured that agency's action of most interest to the farmer during the past week.

MEAT

OPA requested court injunction of 115 U. S. meat packers and wholesale distributors in an effort to compel compliance with the beef and veal price regulations. Although bulk of the cases involved upgrading, many others are concerned as well with plain and simple overcharging, incorrect invoicing, or failure to issue invoices as provided by OPA regulations (OPA release-662).

Mechanics of possible live-hog ceilings were discussed in a 2-day Washington conference with producers, livestock commission men, and packer buyers. No definite decision has been reached as yet regarding the nature of the proposal which OPA may submit to Secretary of Agriculture Wickard for his consideration. Announcement of this proposal may be postponed until after the establishment of the new zoning plan for ceiling prices on the packer-slaughtered product. This slaughtered-product plan will contain specific dollars and cents prices rather than the individual seller's list prices (OPA-665). Dressed-hog ceilings will approximate actual sales levels prevailing during early March, with any live-hog ceilings likely to be in line with this level of pork prices.

Substantially the entire meat industry, with the exception of the retailers, was brought under unified licensing control (OPA-650).

LUMBER

OPA established an "overtime addition" system to permit over time operations and stimulate maximum utilization of available manpower in the West coast logging industry (OPA-651).

Maximum prices were set for sales of softwood lumber from distribution yards including such important industrial lumbers as southern pine, western pine, Douglas fir, and hemlock (OPA-652).

Dollars and cents maximum prices were established for "recurring special" grades of Appalachian hardwood lumber for 15 individual mills (OPA-T-92).

OPA announced names of 11 lumber concerns which have met the qualifications as producers of "special soft textured finish" as defined in the Southern Pine Price Regulation (OPA-T-102). Accordingly, these producers may charge a \$7.50 per 1,000 feet board premium in addition to the basic maximum prices established for shortleaf yellow pine of standard finish for finish of this special soft texture.

Virtually the entire lumber, lumber products, and building materials industries have been placed under unified licensing control at distribution levels (OPA-685).

OPA raised maximum selling prices for wooden posts and certain other lumber products used in mines an average of 20 percent (OPA-679). Increase was granted because producers are unable to absorb a recent increase in hourly wage rates awarded by the National War Labor Board, and because this increase will have no inflationary effect on the cost of living.

GARMENTS

Recognizing the differential in prices for men's and boys' ready-made suits, separate coats, pants, and vests which were charged during the base pricing period by two different types of manufacturing and wholesale houses, OPA adjusted the pricing formula of Men's and Boys' Tailored Clothing Regulation (OPA-T-94).

TIN CANS

Sellers of used tin cans of No. 10 size or larger - the type sought for plate from which beverage bottle caps may be punched - may charge no more than \$6 a ton for such cans (OPA-668).

COTTON LINTERS

Sales of cotton linters and hull fibers by the United States or any of its agencies are not subject to the pricing provisions of the Cotton Linters and Hull Fibers Regulation (OPA-T-98).

SANITARY NAPKINS

Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of sanitary napkins are permitted to continue to add certain transportation charges to their maximum prices (OPA-675).

COVERED RUBBER THREAD

To expedite sale of covered rubber thread needed for gas-mask webbing, OPA issued an amendment by which manufacturers of that item may contract with Defense Supplies Corporation for delivery at the present maximum prices levels with a provision for adjustment to a higher price in any case where OPA permits an increase in the maximum (OPA-686).

REFRIGERATORS

OPA announced a new method of computing warehousing allowances, which distributors as well as manufacturers may add to their base prices for new household mechanical refrigerators in sales allowed by the War Production Board (OPA-673). This action followed WPB's release of approximately 100,000 household refrigerators from stocks previously frozen by WPB order.

A series of questions and answers interpreting two amendments to refrigerator regulations were issued to dealers, distributors, and manufacturers (OPA-674).

RELIEF

Campbell Soup Co., of Camden, N. J., was granted relief because its ceiling price for fat-bearing and oil-bearing animal-waste material was based on an old contract at rates far below those generally prevailing during the base period (OPA-T-96).

Food Concentrates, Inc., of New York, has worked out a higher quality of molasses powder for gingerbread mix because of necessity of wartime Government restrictions forcing use of a new type of molasses. Therefore, OPA granted a 1-1/2-cent a pound increase (OPA-644).

Ceiling prices for two brands of whiskey which will be bottled with a lighter alcoholic proof for sale in New York State only were set at levels reflecting the lowered alcoholic content (OPA-T-99). The new prices apply to sales of the Frankfort Distilleries, Inc., of Louisville, Ky., when bottled with 86-proof alcoholic content instead of 90 proof.

TIRES

Possession of an Office of Defense Transportation Certificate of War Necessity will be made an additional requirement to be met by operators of commercial vehicles in qualifying for tires under the rationing program, although the certificate alone will not make a vehicle eligible (OPA-887).

OPA reduced the number of sectional warehouses which a tire manufacturer is permitted to establish, and simplified the operational procedure governing these warehouses (OPA-T-100).

CANDY

Those candies sold in large volumes during the Christmas and holiday seasons have been removed from the General Maximum Price Regulation and placed under an independent price measure. Similar action was taken for chocolate-covered cherries (OPA-646).

OPA granted price adjustment to Charles Gauss Co., Detroit wholesale candy and tobacco concern, which now may raise its price on 45 varieties of bar candy, to be sold to the Detroit Board of Education, from 65 cents a box, less 2 percent cash discount, to 73 cents, less discount. This adjustment allows the Board of Education to obtain candy from the wholesaler who is no longer able to supply the bars at last year's price but who is willing to sell at a price approximately 10 percent under the nearest local competitor (OPA-681).

GENERAL MAXIMUM PRICE REGULATION

Retailers and wholesalers who had determined the ceiling price for any "fall and winter seasonal commodity" under the General Maximum Price Regulation and had offered it for sale at that price before August 31, 1942, may sell this commodity either under the ceiling provisions of the general regulation or Maximum Price Regulation No. 210 - Retail and Wholesale Prices for Fall and Winter Seasonal Commodities - until September 16, 1942 (OPA-663).

Additional methods of determining ceiling prices under the General Maximum Price Regulation for commodities and services not dealt in during March 1942 have been established by Amendment 25 to the general regulation. The amendment covers new products developed since March as well as those commodities and services in which the particular seller did not deal at that time (OPA-T-101).

To facilitate disposal of electrotpe plates classified as obsolete under the terms of WFB Order M-99, OPA has excluded from the General Maximum Price Regulation sales of such plates by printers and publishers (OPA-653).

QUALITY CONTROL

OPA announced that a direct attack is being launched on the hidden price increases that result from debasement of quality, use of inferior materials, and "skimping" on measures and workmanship. A Standards Division has been created to aid in developing specific standards for inclusion in all OPA regulations where quality is a factor (OPA-699).

AUTOMOBILES

Reserve quotas of passenger automobiles will be assigned monthly to regional OPA Administrators for use in supplementing allotments to States that exhaust quotas and reserves without satisfying all demand under rationing (OPA-667).